

LUNCHEON HOUR SAVES MANY FROM BEING BLOWN UP

MORGAN FIRM CLERK KILLED, THIRTY HURT

Building Is Damaged to Extent of \$500,000 by Explosion. M. CASENAVE ESCAPES. Junius Spencer Morgan and Thomas Lamont Slightly Hurt. MANY SAVED BY SCREEN Conference of Financiers Takes Them From Positions of Most Danger.

Of the buildings immediately surrounding the scene of the explosion yesterday in the financial district the Morgan offices were most seriously damaged. The explosion occurred on the Wall street side of the building, and the full force of the crash, which swept in the big windows of the Morgan office, sending glass and pieces of iron and steel on high over the tops of the departments on that side of the building. One clerk there was killed, but at least thirty others were seriously cut that they had to be attended by ambulance surgeons.

WALL STREET LOSS SET AT \$2,500,000

Broken Glass Alone Valued at \$200,000—Morgan Damage Not Estimated.

IRON BARS TWISTED

Work of Reconstruction Begins as Soon as Shock Is Experienced.

The damage done as the direct result of the explosion was variously estimated yesterday afternoon at from \$1,500,000 to \$2,500,000. Broken windows, shattered office furniture, lost securities, cracked walls and ceilings and other damage went to make up the huge total of money loss. Plate glass insurance experts estimated the damage in broken glass alone at more than \$200,000, while the damage done to the expensive wall and ceiling of the Morgan offices could not be estimated. The New York Stock Exchange suffered heavy loss, and the front of the new Assay office, which has just been built by the Treasury Department, directly opposite the Morgan Building in Wall street, appeared to have been under bombardment by light artillery, so badly was it chipped and pitted.

Noted Morgan Dome Broken. The huge glass dome which covers a large part of the main banking lobby of the bank and which was the pride of the Morgan firm, was broken in several places, but the frame of the dome remained in place. The glass, however, was so badly damaged that one of the tasks of the architectural world at the time the building was first put up, here and there on the inner walls of the building, opposite the Wall street side, were broken in several places and the debris of the dome fell on the street.

Saved by Being at Conference. That not more of the Morgan partners were injured was due to the fact that the other partners were in conference on the second floor. This conference was a daily affair among the members of the firm, and usually takes place in the private office of J. P. Morgan, on the second floor overlooking Broad and Wall streets.

through the window weight, hurried through the air, penetrated a window on the second floor and sped on into the office of Edward Prosser, president of the Bankers Trust company, where Prosser was seated at his desk at the time, directly in front of the window, and the heavy piece of iron, which was described as about three-quarters of an inch in diameter, hurled past his head and lodged in a cabinet on the opposite side of the room. Glass fell in a shower upon the banker's desk, but across from the Morgan offices. Practically all of the windows here were smashed, but the building's face did not show much sign of damage.

Windows Also Shattered. The buildings at 29 and 24 Broad street, occupied on the ground floor by the Postal Telegraph Company and the New York Trust Company, suffered heavy damage. A hole about the size of a large calibre bullet was made in the glass show window of Weber & Heilbronner, who occupy the store in the Johnson Building at 24 Broad street. Across from the Johnson Building is the Broad Exchange Building, occupied by the Equitable Trust Company's building in Wall Street, two floors east of the Johnson Building.

Steel Bars Bent and Twisted. At the Assay office, across from the Morgan building, the great twisted steel bars which were designed to protect the windows were bent and twisted in every conceivable manner. Practically every window in this building was shattered, and the unavoidable delay which had prevented the office force of the Assay office from moving into the building a few weeks ago on schedule was probably saved many lives. The doorway, which was looked upon as one of the most ornamental ever constructed in a Government office building was practically demolished. The walls were pitted and broken, but none of the office furniture had been moved into the building as yet, so that the damage was confined to the building itself.

ARREST ON THE CURB BEFORE EXPLOSION. A. G. Vernard Charged with Raising Bills of Lading. A few minutes before the explosion in Wall street Special Agent J. J. Kennedy of the Department of Justice arrested at the curb merchant Anastasius G. Vernard, also known as V. V. Nicas, who was charged, with other members of the American Company of Commerce, 79 Wall street, with raising bills of lading.

Other buildings which suffered heavy loss were the Bank of Manhattan Building at 40 Wall street, the Bank of America Building on the northeast corner of Wall and William streets, the Equitable Building at 125 Broadway, the Hanover National Bank Building at Nassau and Pine streets, and others in that vicinity. The loss in these buildings, however, was comparatively slight.

Missile Lodges in Cabinet. At the Bankers Trust Company building, which stands on the northwest corner of Broad and Wall streets, the damage done was not so great as on the other three corners of that intersection. Nevertheless, there was a large number of windows demolished and some heavy missile, said to resemble a piece of window weight, hurtled through the air, penetrated a window on the second floor and sped on into the office of Edward Prosser, president of the Bankers Trust company, where Prosser was seated at his desk at the time, directly in front of the window, and the heavy piece of iron, which was described as about three-quarters of an inch in diameter, hurled past his head and lodged in a cabinet on the opposite side of the room.

WORK ALL NIGHT TO REMOVE DEBRIS

Searchlights Flare in Unusual Scene as Policemen Search for Clues.

GUARDS SURROUND BANKS

Failure to Complete New Assay Office Saved Many Lives.

The usually dark and silent financial district blazed with light from many searchlights last night, and throngs of workmen labored to repair the tremendous havoc wrought by the explosion. All night in J. P. Morgan's office, the Assay Office, the Stock Exchange and nearby buildings, scores of workers were busy cleaning up fragments of glass, broken furniture and debris, and many a bit of twisted metal was found.

Huge searchlights, placed at street corners and other points of vantage, lighted the district. Some business houses boarded up their shattered windows, while others had the glass replaced away in preparation for instant replacement. Despite the fact that the streets had been swept and reswept, broken glass and plaster still covered them, dropping from the buildings above.

Flames and Smoke. I dodged into a convenient doorway to escape falling glass and to reach a telephone and call the office. Looking from Wall street later I could see arising from the vicinity of the Sub-Treasury Building and the J. P. Morgan & Co. bank a mushroom shaped cloud of yellowish green smoke, which mounted to the height of more than 100 feet, the smoke being licked by darting tongues of flame.

Men and women who were uninjured stood paralyzed, unable apparently to move to the aid of the mangled. Even police reserves when they arrived seemed stupefied by the calamity.

REPORTER CAUGHT IN BLAST TELLS STORY

Concussion of Air That Threw Him Off Feet, Then Roar of Explosion.

HURT LITTERED STREET

Hall of Glass Fell Through Clouds of Yellowish Green Smoke.

The following eyewitness story of the explosion was written by George Weston, a reporter for the Associated Press. This was the second time within the last three months that Mr. Weston had narrowly escaped death in an accident. He was in the dirigible balloon which fell into Jamaica Bay during the races for the America's Cup.

It was a crash out of a blue sky—an unexpected, death dealing bolt which in a twinkling turned into a shambale the busiest corner of America's financial center and sent scurrying to places of shelter hundreds of wounded, dumb, fleeing from an unknown danger.

I was just turning into Wall street from Broadway when I first felt, rather than heard, the explosion. A concussion of air similar to that experienced by a passenger on the subway when a train dashes into one of the under river tubes was felt. Its force was sufficient to all but throw me off my balance. Instantly following the concussion came a sharp, round crashing sound that shook to its foundations the monster buildings facing either side of Wall street.

After the explosion took place, the smoke had partially cleared from the street, but from the Morgan building was belching forth through the broken windows clouds of dust and white vapor. In the street an overturned automobile was blazing fiercely and nearby, close to the body of a dead horse, was another fire, evidently among a pile of wreckage.

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For the first Autumn days there are smart frocks made of the fashionable worsteds, of velveteen, duvetyne or chiffon velvet; any of which may appropriately be worn on the street, with the addition of the fashionable fur neckpiece. These frocks are variously priced at \$37.50 to 264.00.

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